

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/054,343

Applicant(s)

THENGVALL ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Romain Jeanty

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to _____.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20,23-27 and 29-51.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

5. Notice of Informal Patent Application

2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment

4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. Other _____


Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3623

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claim 41, line 1, after engine, insert --system--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3-20, 23-52 allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art is Sato et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,651,0460). Sato et al discloses an optimizing method for optimization, the total number of crew required for flight services and a crew pairing model calculation unit for calculating a fitness of a solution. However Sato et al fail to teach an optimizer engine in electrical communication with an optimizer container and an optimizer data provider for generating a mixed integer programming model and thereafter solving said mixed integer programming model to provide a feasible optimized solution, and for deriving an optimized pilot training plan from said feasible optimized solution, wherein said mixed integer programming model is comprised of an objective function with variables and constraints as recited in independent claim 1.

The closest prior art is Sato et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,651,0460). Sato et al disclose an

optimizing method for optimization, the total number of crew required for flight services and a crew pairing model calculation unit for calculating a fitness of a solution. However Sato et al fail to teach creating variables and constraints from a set of lists, and an MIP (Mix Integer Programming) model, and solving a linear programming relaxation of said MIP Model to generate a first solution with said variables, wherein said MIP Model comprises of an objective function with variable and constraints as recited in independent claim 18.

The closest prior art is Sato et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,651,0460). Sato et al discloses an optimizing method for optimization, the total number of crew required for flight services and a crew pairing model calculation unit for calculating a fitness of a solution. However Sato et al fail to teach creating variables and constraints, and therefor solving a mixed integer programming model, wherein said mixed integer programming model is comprised of an objective function with variables and constraints as recited in independent claims 40 and 41.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - a. Mikael et al (Scheduling Pilot Training) discloses a system for scheduling training for pilots.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (571) 272-6732. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

December 11, 2006

Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3623